

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 L-03 SSO-00

NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 TAR-01 /079 W

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R 231237Z DEC 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 207

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1472

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: IRELAND'S POSITION ON THE US MEAT MARKET

REF: STATE 299940

1. WE CONVEYED TO RABOT THE INFORMATION IN REFTEL ON DECEMBER 22. RAB
OT

RESPONDED THAT HE FEARS THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE US DECISION

.
THE COMMISSION IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE TONNAGE INVOLVED, WHICH IS
RELATIVELY SMALL, BUT IS CONCERNED THAT THE PROCEDURE USED IN THIS
CASE

IMPLIES A HARDENING OF US ATTITUDE AGAINST TRYING TO MANAGE THESE
PROB-

LEMS AS WE WERE ABLE TO DO IN THE HAM CASE. RABOT SAYS HE INTERPRETS
OUR

MESSAGE TO MEAN THAT IF THERE IS ANY SUBSIDY ON BEEF EXPORTS, THERE
IS

NO CHANCE TO SHIP THEM TO THE US MARKET. HE DESCRIBED THIS AS WORSE
THAN THE SITUATION IN CHEESE OR HAM WHERE AT LEAST SOME LEVEL OF
TRADE

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COULD BE MAINTAINED. HE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS APPARENTLY

DECIDED NOT TO USE THE WAIVER UNDER THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY STATUTE AND HAS ABANDONED ITS DISCRETION IN BEEF. RABOT ASKED THAT WE CONVEY TO WASHINGTON HIS REQUEST THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THIS STANCE. HE SAID THAT LARDINOIS IS ALREADY UNDER A GOOD DEAL OF PRESSURE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND WAS QUESTIONED IN THE LAST COUNCIL, BY GERMAN MINISTER ERTL, ABOUT HOW LONG LARDINOIS WOULD REFRAIN FROM PROTESTING THE US POLICY ON COUNTERVAILING AND THE PROGRESSIVE CLOSING OF THE US MARKET TO EC FARM PRODUCTS.

2. RABOT SAID HE WAS ALSO WORRIED THAT WE WERE EFFECTIVELY CLOSING OFF ANY FUTURE FLEXIBILITY SHOULD THE CURRENT REVIEW OF NEXT YEAR'S CAP OPERATION COME UP WITH A NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR INTERNAL BEEF SUPPORT. HE HYPOTHESIZED THAT THE COMMUNITY MAY MOVE TOWARD SOME NEW FORM OF ARRANGEMENT FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY SUCH AS THE SLAUGHTER PREMIUM CURRENTLY IN EXISTENCE IN GREAT BRITAIN, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE USE OF A MUCH-REDUCED EXPORT SUBSIDY ON SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT CONSIDER THE PROBLEM TO BE POLITICALLY SO DIFFICULT IF THE UNITED STATES HAD OFFERED TO NEGOTIATE A RESTRAINT AGREEMENT WITH THE IRISH AND INSISTED UPON A FIGURE SMALL ENOUGH (BUT NOT INSULTINGLY SMALL) THAT THE IRISH REFUSED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT. NOR WOULD HE WORRY TOO MUCH IF THE UNITED STATES SAID THAT THE SUBSIDY ON IRISH BEEF WAS TOO HIGH. IT WOULD EVEN BE BETTER TO NEGOTIATE A SMALL QUANTITY OF SHIPMENTS WITH THE IRISH, WARNING THEM THAT THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY WOULD BE EXERCISED, IN WHICH CASE HE MIGHT EVEN SUGGEST THAT THE IRISH FOREGO THE SUBSIDY. BUT TO BEGIN THE YEAR BY REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE IRISH AND THUS STATE THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD IRISH BEEF BE ALLOWED INTO THE UNITED STATES, IS BOUND TO HAVE A HEAVY POLITICAL REPERCUSSION. RABOT SAID HE WOULD HATE TO SEE THIS SUBJECT ADDED TO THE BUTZ/LARDINOIS AGENDA, BUT SPECULATED THAT LARFINOIS MIGHT WELL RAISE IT DURING THEIR MEETING.

3. WE EXPLAINED TO RABOT THE PROBLEM OF NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IRISH ON A QUANTITY OF BEEF WHICH THEY WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO SUPPLY, FOR IT WOULD THEN MEAN THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE FORCED TO NEGOTIATE SMALLER QUANTITIES. RABOT SAID THAT POLITICALLY IT WOULD BE PREFERRED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABLE TO GO THROUGH SUCH A FICTITIOUS EXERCISE NOW AND THEN IF NECESSARY REDISTRIBUTE THE UNUSED QUOTA LATER TO OTHER SUPPLIERS RATHER THAN REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IRISH AT ALL.

4. WE ASKED IF RABOT WOULD WISH TO MEET WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN DIRECTLY HIS CONCERNS.

HE SAID HE WOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON LATE JANUARY 6 AND
SUGGESTED A MEETING DURING THE FOLLOWING MORNING. PLEASE
ADVISE IF THIS IS ACCEPTABLE TO KATZ. GREENWALD

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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